

10/23

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 26 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Splitlog Church

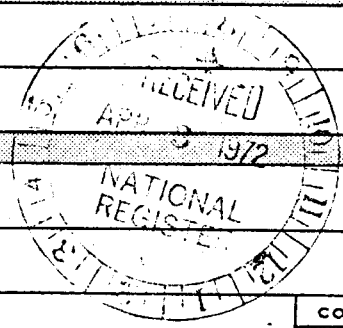
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Cayuga Mission Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 9 m. NE of

CITY OR TOWN:
Grove (NE/4 SE/4 NE/4 Sec. 23, T 25 N, R 24 E)

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40	COUNTY: Delaware	CODE: 041
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Cynthia Sellers

STREET AND NUMBER:
1817 E. 30th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Tulsa	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Delaware County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Jay	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Society

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One) (almost) (Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Work began on Splitlog Church in 1893. It was still unfinished in 1894 when Mrs. Splitlog died, although it was used for her funeral. In 1895 work was resumed, then halted. Not until late 1896 was the church so nearly completed that a dedication service was finally held - on Nov. 25, 1896. It was blessed as "St. Matthias" and a visiting priest noted in his diary that about 100 of the estimated 500 attending were Catholics. "The people were carried away with the grand ceremony and the music."

Splitlog is constructed of native limestone, approximately 30 x 50 feet in size, with a high, sharply sloped roof. The tall tower and steeple over the front entrance are balanced by a smaller tower at the back. Limestone steps lead up to the handsomely plain double front doors. (The doorway arch contains fifteen stones carved with Indian symbols, but Splitlog descendants do not know their meaning.) Stone fence and gate posts guard the churchyard entrance. Some 30 feet behind the church is the roofless engine house that once supplied it with steam heat.

Interior of the church featured imported finishing lumber - as opposed to locally cut native timber for the rough wood needs -- and much of it was ornately carved. Stained glass windows were installed, although the five thousand dollar organ ordered for the choir loft was not delivered before Splitlog died in 1897. The bronze bell was cast in Belgium. The church contained one curious "vanity" feature: the carving of a single letter of the builder's name over each arched window -- starting to the right of the altar and running around the back of the church and on up to the front again, on the left -- so as to read (to the inattentive worshiper?) S-P-L-I-T-L-O-G.

After Splitlog's death the three acres of land occupied by the church and cemetery were deeded to the Catholic Church. But declining membership and the difficulty of supplying priests to the mission finally brought dissolution of the congregation and in 1930 the church was sold to the Methodists. The altar, confessional and other special Catholic furnishings were removed, however, the bell taken to St. Cathrine's Church in nearby Nowata. For some years the church was used as a school, with occasional Sunday services. Then for many years it stood unused ... and deteriorating.

In 1953, however, Cayuga's church was bought by a private individual, for sentimental reasons, and restored. The Methodist Church, according to terms of the sale, retains an option to rebuy the building and the cemetery is to be maintained. As a pleasant result the visitor today finds a relatively well kept burying ground, spread out informally under large protective oaks. New tombstones are interspersed among the old weathered ones - some ornate marble affairs, still others worn fieldstones on which nothing can now be read. Here is a weed-filled plot protected by an iron fence, there are modern marker flanked by faded sprays of artificial flowers. Among the more impressive stones: those of Eliza and Mathias Splitlog, H. T. Splitlog, and a number of Starrs, another well-known family name in this area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

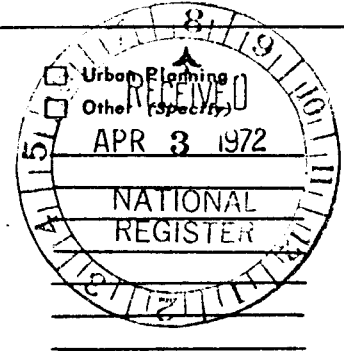
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1893 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

More perhaps than any other religious edifice standing in Oklahoma today, Splitlog Church is the handsomely impressive monument to a remarkably able, public-spirited individual.

Mathias Splitlog was born in New York in 1812 -- by ancestry half Cayuga and half French. An important figure on four frontiers -- Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, and Indian Territory -- he died in 1897 ... in Washington, D. C., appropriately enough, while representing the Senecas, into whose tribe he had been adopted. He lies buried beside his wife in the oak-shaded burying ground of the stately limestone church he built, quite possibly the only structure of its kind standing in the United States today to be built by an Indian with his own personal resources.

Says Velma Nieberding: "Distinguished, even in his early years, for his sound business sense, a mechanical and inventive turn of mind, and the ability to estimate the possibilities of the future, Splitlog possessed the quality known as vision." Nannie Lee Burns has written: "He was of a peculiar, eccentric disposition. His ideas were ahead of his time. He was always planning and building." Unable to read or write, Splitlog spoke seven languages. A far from young man when he came to Indian Territory in 1874, he had outlived his wife and all but one of his ten children when he helped dedicate his church, on Nov. 25, 1896. Less than six weeks later, on January 2, he was dead.

Mathias Splitlog was a young man in Sandusky, Ohio, when he met and married Eliza Barnett (1829-1894), thus becoming a member of the Wyandot Tribe. In 1842 this tribe quit-claimed its Ohio reservation to the United States in exchange for land along the Neosho River in Kansas. Splitlog came west with more than 700 Wyandots in 1843. The tribe later bought land from the Delawares in the fork between the Kansas and Missouri River now occupied by Kansas City, Kansas. But the value of this land soon created sufficient public pressure to dispossess them. Finally, the Senecas, honoring a pledge of friendship made years before in Ohio, turned over to the Wyandots 30,000 acres of their reservation in northeastern Indian Territory. Splitlog and his people moved yet another time, in 1874, and the now 62-year-old leader chose for his new home a site near the junction of the Cowskin and Grand (Neosho in Kansas) Rivers.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

ST Oklahoma	
COUNTY Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 26 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

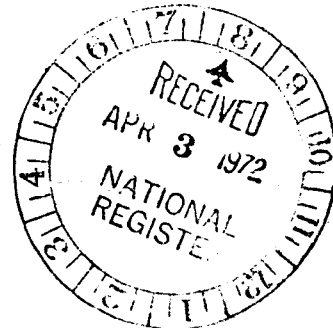
No. 8. Significance

Splitlog Church

On it was a spring he named Cayuga in honor of his own tribe and the town he started became known as Cayuga Springs. (As Cayuga, it had a post office from June 11, 1884, to April 30, 1912. It has now virtually disappeared.) He built a sawmill and a grist mill ... established a general store, a blacksmith shop, and a ferry ... erected an impressive three-story-and-basement factory for the manufacture of wagons and buggies. He started a subscription school and (his most ambitious project) began work in 1887 on the "Splitlog Line," forerunner of a section of the present Kansas City Southern Lines. The railroad reached Splitlog City (in nearby Missouri) in 1889. "I go on," Splitlog promised in a celebration speech. "I make Cayuga and Splitlog biggest towns in the Ozarks." But the dream was not fulfilled.

It is not known just when Splitlog first became interested in building Cayuga Mission Church. He was a nominal Catholic, although he had never shown any particular interest in religion. Mrs. Splitlog, however, was a devout Quaker and the Splitlog General Store was generally available for religious services of any interested denomination. Then in 1892 Father William Ketcham came to Indian Territory to work among the various tribes in this area. Splitlog sent for him and in 1893 he was confirmed at a Pontifical Mass at St. Mary's of the Quapaws (a church that still stands some miles to the north). Mrs. Splitlog also became a convert.

Father Ketcham helped Splitlog with his plans for the Cayuga Church, which he began in 1893. When Eliza Splitlog died Sept. 28, 1894, she was buried from the still uncompleted structure. Not until late in 1896 was it finally finished. At the dedicatory service the bell, which had been cast in Belgium, was blessed and first tolled in her memory. Removed in 1930, when the church was sold to the Methodist church, the bell has since been returned. Today it, the well preserved church, and the neatly tended, still used churchyard containing the graves of both Mathias and Eliza Splitlog remain as a quietly impressive tribute to one of Indian Territory's most progressive Indians.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nieberding, Velma, "Chief Splitlog and the Cayuga Mission Church,"
The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXII (1954), pp. 18-28

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 38' 0"	94° 40' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO 07
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE: ...	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE: ...	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE: ...	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **February 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *[Signature]*

Title: *SLC for [illegible]*

Date: *MAR 24 1972*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *10/26/72*

ATTEST:

William J. Hunt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *10-19-72*



Splitlog Church

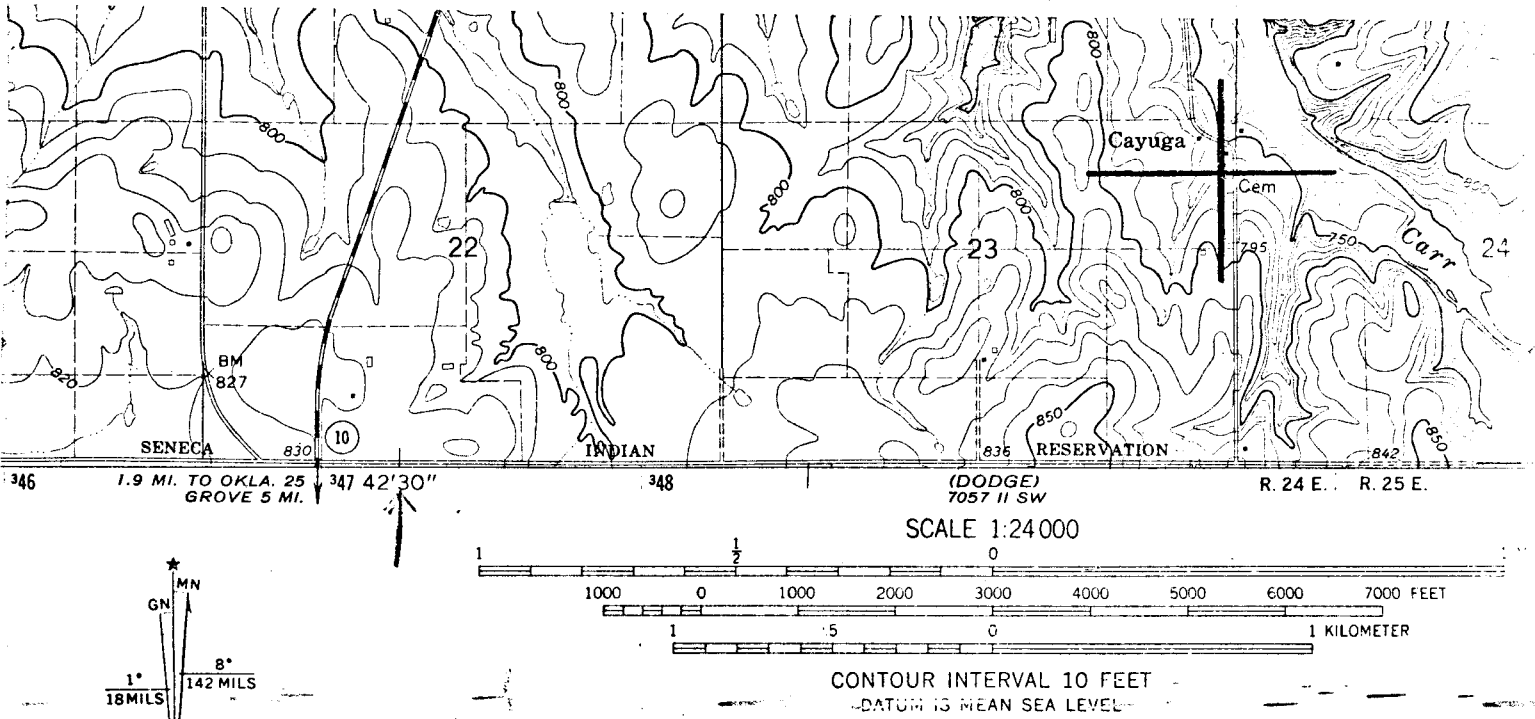
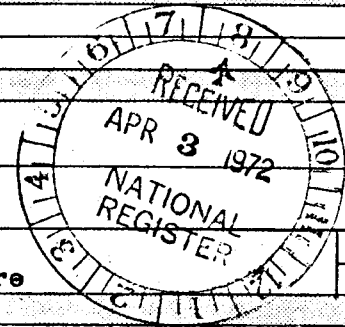
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 20 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Splitlog Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Cayuga Mission Church			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
c. 9 m. NE of			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Grove (NE/4 Sec. 23, T 25 N, R 24 E)			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Delaware	041
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. Cayuga Quadrangle			
SCALE: 7.5 minute series 1:24,000			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			
		Lat.: 36° 38' 0"	
		Long.: 94° 40' 46"	



UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 200
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST